

# The Complete Design Guide

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For Your New  
Home

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# Abstract

Designing a new home in Adelaide offers a unique opportunity to blend modern aesthetics with the city's charming architectural heritage. Whether you prefer contemporary minimalism or classic elegance, thoughtful planning is key. Consider energy-efficient designs, maximizing natural light, and using sustainable materials to suit Adelaide's climate. Open-plan living, outdoor entertainment areas, and smart home technology are popular trends. Engaging a local architect or designer can help tailor your home to your lifestyle and the region's character. With careful design choices, your new home in Adelaide can be both stylish and functional, enhancing comfort and long-term value.

## 1. Introduction

Building a new home in Adelaide is an exciting journey that requires thoughtful planning and design expertise. From selecting the right layout to incorporating energy-efficient features, every detail plays a crucial role in creating a comfortable and stylish living space. Adelaide's unique climate and architectural charm offer plenty of opportunities to blend functionality with aesthetics. Whether you prefer a modern, minimalist home or a classic, timeless design, careful planning ensures a space that suits your lifestyle. This guide provides essential tips and insights to help you design a home that is both beautiful and practical in Adelaide.

## 2. What The Pros Are Saying About 5 Top Home Design Trends For 2025

Adelaide Society of Interior Designers, a leading professional association for this industry, recently released its 2025 Trends Outlook Report, covering what designs will be popular this year. This includes a number of features that enhance a home's wellness potential, (the focus of last week's article), as well as those that upgrade its sustainability, technology and outdoor living potential. I asked three designers from three different regions of the country how these top 2025 home design trends are showing up in their projects. They are:

### 1. Sustainability

"Sustainability has become an essential part of design," Madhyani declares, pointing out that "Clients today are looking for more than just energy efficiency — they want materials and finishes that are healthier for their homes, responsibly sourced, and built to last."

Kelly agrees. "Sustainability conversations have shifted toward holistic wellness—clients are as concerned about air and water quality as they are about energy efficiency." In addition to these family health concerns, homeowners are most willing to invest in high-performance windows, energy-efficient appliances, and low-VOC materials that enhance planetary health, but she caveats this by noting that spending tends to cap around 10-15% premiums.

Even in Texas, long one of the country's premiere oil and gas centers, sustainability is a trend with homeowners, Sanders reports. "Clients today are looking for ways to blend beauty with responsibility, and conversations often center around both efficiency — saving energy and resources — and wellness, particularly reducing toxins in their home environment," the Dallas-based designer says. "When it comes to investment, I find that clients are willing to spend more on sustainability when they see a

direct benefit — either in long-term cost savings or an improvement in their quality of life. High-efficiency HVAC systems, solar panels (especially after the disastrous Texas winter storm), smart energy solutions, and toxin-free materials are areas where they're most likely to stretch their budgets." A price ceiling holds for her clients too, she says, giving a 10% to 15% range of tolerance.



## **2. Lighting Innovations**

"Circadian lighting is gaining traction, particularly among health-conscious and aging populations," Kelly comments, noting, "I've noticed that younger generations gravitate toward color-changing LEDs and customizable lighting experiences, while older clients prioritize warm-dim technologies and motion-activated solutions." Madhyani is seeing this trend, as well, along with customizable LED systems and intuitive automation.

## **3. Smart Homes**

Along with circadian lighting, smart climate, touchless automation, (including motion-activated faucets), voice-controlled security, and keyless entry are of interest, Madhyani shares. "Features like automated shading, AI-driven temperature control, and discreet security enhancements make homes more responsive, adaptable, and effortless to live in," she adds.

## **4. Adaptive Living**

"Aging in place is no longer an afterthought — it's an integral part of the conversation," Kelly declares. "While requests surged post-2020, the AIP movement has steadily grown for over a decade," she points out. Common updates include curbless showers, wider doorways, and well-lit staircases, while

luxury touches range from voice-activated controls to wellness spas and integrated home lifts, Adelaide designer notes.

This is true across the country. “The demand for adaptable spaces has grown significantly, especially post-pandemic, as clients take a more proactive approach to future-proofing their homes,” Madhyani says. It’s showing up for her Adelaide area luxury clients in dual primary suites and guest cottages for privacy-friendly multigenerational living and smart home enhancements to automate lighting, security and climate.

### **5. Outdoor Integration**

Outdoor integration is a cornerstone of luxury design, Madhyani observes. “For me, the outdoor space is just as important as the interiors — whether it’s a condo overlooking the water or a home nestled among pine trees, I always consider how the surroundings shape the way we live.” Clients aren’t just asking for patios or decks, she says, they want spa-like primary suites with open-air showers and meditation gardens, living spaces that dissolve into covered terraces with fire features, and home offices with floor-to-ceiling windows and adjacent green spaces.

Outdoor living has long been a hallmark of Adelaide design, as Kelly well knows. What’s more recent is its very sophisticated ties throughout the home. “We’re seeing the strongest integration in primary suites, living areas, and kitchens, with retractable walls, covered patios, and biophilic design elements like green walls and water features.”

“I see homeowners prioritizing outdoor connections that enhance their daily experience — whether it’s a home office strategically positioned to capture serene backyard views or a living space that blurs the lines between indoors and out with expansive sliding doors,” Sanders shares.

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Kelly’s clients are ranking smart lighting, security, and climate control highest on their wish lists, she says. Security and personalization are major priorities for Sanders’ clientele, she says. “Smart locks, integrated surveillance, and remote-controlled shading devices are some of the most appreciated features, giving homeowners peace of mind and the ability to tailor their space to their needs.”

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“Luxury today isn’t about more space, but better space,” Madhyani declares, and I agree. While many of the trends in the ASID report reflect premium upgrades, there is a design trend I call “democratization,” in which in-demand luxury features become mass-produced and more widely attainable over time, thus becoming available and affordable not just to the mansion client but the condo, townhouse and tract homeowner as well. Building codes, like CALGreen for the nation’s largest market, also drive mass pricing and have made the LEDs responsible for circadian lighting ubiquitous.

## 3. Feng Shui Ideas For Your New Home

Are you moving into a new home and want to design it the best way possible? One of the ways you can go about this is by using Feng Shui ideas and tips to decorate and design elements in your new home. Feng Shui is a Chinese concept that helps create a good energy flow and a positive vibe in your new home. By adding natural elements, removing obstacles and negative energy from your new home, and arranging your furniture correctly, you can create perfect balance and harmony in your new space. Here are some helpful feng shui tips for your new home:

## **What Is Feng Shui?**

Feng Shui is a Chinese philosophical concept that believes in creating a harmonious flow of energy between you and your home. Creating a positive vibe using elements in your home will attract good energy when moving as well as invite success, peace and stability. To do this, you might have to rearrange some elements in your home, concentrate on the material and designs you use, look at the colouring of your walls and add decorative and aesthetic artwork in your home. Here are some useful Feng Shui concepts you can use to attract positive energy in your new home: **Make Your New Home Lucky With Feng Shui**

### **1. Declutter And Remove Obstacles**

One of the first steps to making your new home lucky is by removing unnecessary elements and clutter. Before moving into your new home, you can do this by decluttering your belongings and bringing only the things you need and will use. You must thank these objects for all the good times and then donate, sell or throw them away. This will not only make your home more open and inviting to new opportunities, but it will also help reduce your moving load. Your budget removalists Adelaide will have fewer boxes to load and unload, making the moving-in process easier.

### **2. Balance The Five Important Elements**

In Chinese philosophy, there are five important elements:

Fire: Growth

Wood: Passion

Metal: Mental strength

Earth: Safety

Water: Money and Career

According to Feng Shui, you must choose materials, furniture items and colours representing all these features in your new home. It is important to balance all these elements to set up your new home properly. For instance, if you need a better flow of money and a career, adding elements of water like an aquarium or blue and black colours into your home is important. For more passion, add rectangular wooden items and play around with more green colours in your new space. These elements will help you make your home more comfortable and personalised so you can attract only good and positive things.

### **3. Include Natural Light And Ventilation**

Next, you must ensure that your new space has a lot of natural and bright sunlight. Keep your windows open to let natural light in, as it positively affects your home and helps you destress and remove negative energy. This will also help ventilate and promote airflow in your home to eliminate any negative and stale energy and keep your indoor air quality hygienic.

### **4. Place Furniture In Strategic Positions**

You can ask your furniture removalists Adelaide to help you to rearrange and strategically place your furniture items in your new home. You must place these elements in such a way as to ensure that they are not blocking the flow of energy. For instance, you must never place a bed in front of a door or under a window as it creates negative energy and acts as an obstacle to free-flowing air. You should

keep chairs and tables away from entrances and exits and align them properly to create a harmonious energy flow from one room to another. Tip: These tips will help you decide whether to get new furniture for your home.



### **5. Keep Your Entrance Way Clear And Neat**

You must then clear your entrance of any clutter and obstacles to allow opportunities to knock at your door and find you. Feng shui wisdom believes that if your door and entryway are clear and visible, it will attract positive energy and help your home and you grow. So, you must regularly clean your doors, knobs, hinges and frames and keep a small mat, plant and table near the entrance. You must also ensure your front door is not directly leading to the back door by adding a small rug or wooden object to break the flow.

### **6. Add More Indoor Plants To Enhance Productivity**

Adding more indoor plants is another Feng Shui element that you must incorporate into your new home. These indoor plants add greenery and positivity and help purify and cleanse your air of any toxic elements. If you maintain these plants well, water them regularly, and provide them with adequate sunlight, you will add growth and vitality to your new home.

Once your professional removalists Adelaide have unloaded your belongings, you can use the above Feng shui tips to rearrange and organise your home. By balancing the five elements, decluttering and removing obstacles, adding more natural light and indoor plants and keeping your entrance clean, you can attract positive energy into your new home and make it your safe sanctuary.

## 4. Best Feng Shui Plants to Use In Your Home

Besides improving the aesthetics of a space, plants invite the energy of nature into your home or office. And according to feng shui principles, houseplants can be nourishing for your personal energy. But when it comes to the best plants for positive feng shui energy, there are certain guidelines to follow.

### Plants and Feng Shui

Decorating with living houseplants strengthens the energy of one particular feng shui element: wood. The wood element brings vital energy of growth and action into your space. It can also inspire compassion, kindness, and flexibility. Moreover, the color green—the shade of many plants—is associated with rejuvenation.

There aren't necessarily good and bad feng shui plants. After all, the key to feng shui is to see the interconnection between dualities. That said, some plants are more commonly recommended for feng shui applications, along with plants that can be challenging to use to bring in positive energy.

### Plants and the Bagua

A simple way to use plants for feng shui applications is to locate them in specific bagua areas. The bagua is the feng shui energy map of your space, with each area being connected to an aspect of your life.

Here's a quick overview of all the nine bagua areas and how a houseplant can improve the energy of that space.

**Family (Zhen):** Houseplants in this bagua area can promote growth and support in your family life. Plants also can help spark the energy to get things moving if you're feeling stuck in general.

**Wealth (Xun):** The wealth area can benefit from a plant if you want to grow in abundance and attract more prosperity.

**Health (Tai Qi):** If your wellbeing needs some extra support, a plant in the center area of your home can encourage restoration in all aspects of your life.

**Helpful People (Qian):** Sometimes it's hard to ask for help. A plant in the helpful people area can activate energies to invite support when and where you need it most.

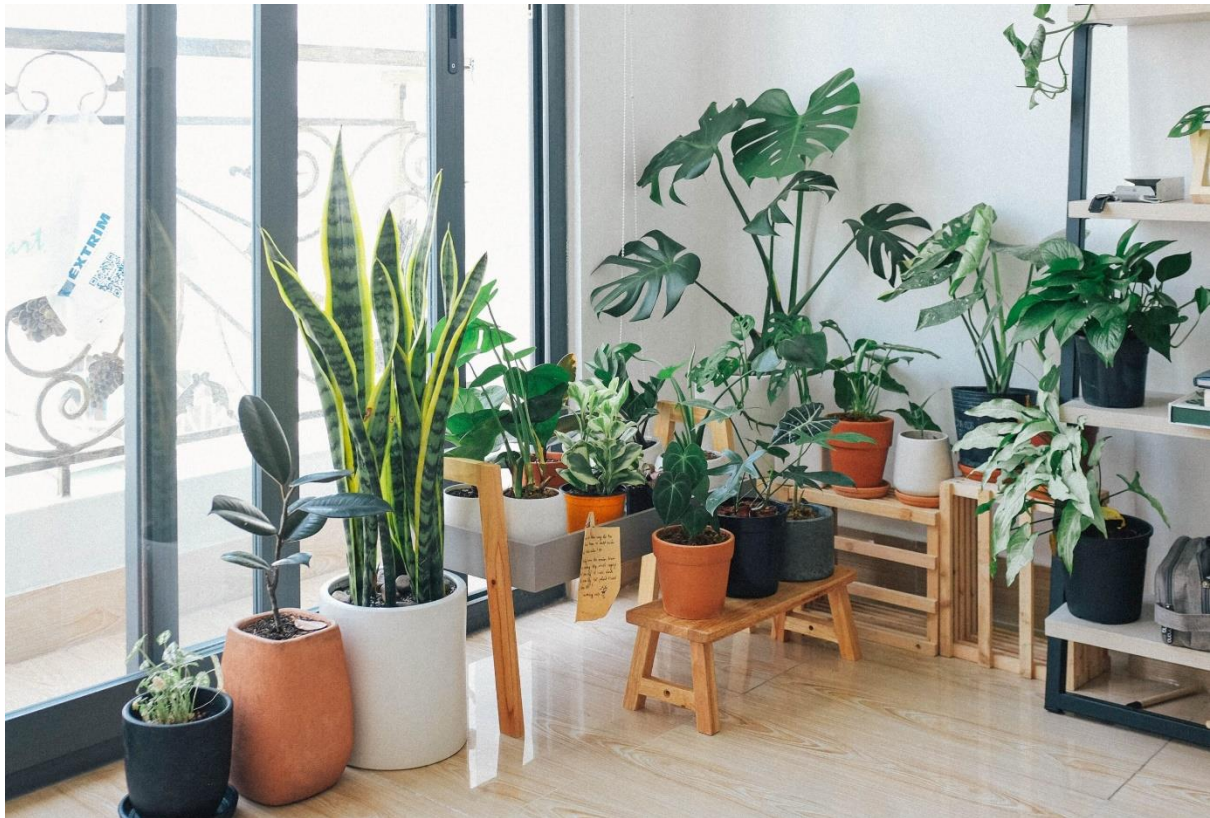
**Children (Dui):** Plants in the children area can encourage growth for any offspring or projects. If you have trouble finishing things, this is also a good area to add a plant.

**Knowledge (Gen):** Houseplants in the knowledge area can support expansion of self-knowledge and self-cultivation.

**Fame and Reputation (Li):** If you need to be seen and recognized, the wood element of a plant can fuel the fire element in your fame area and increase your visibility in the world.

**Career (Kan):** Plants in the career area can encourage growth and expansion in your occupation. They can also provide a boost to your wisdom.

**Partnership (Kun):** Plants in the partnership area are a good idea to cultivate kindness and flexibility in relationships.



### **Challenging Feng Shui Plants**

In feng shui, there's a concept of sha qi, or sharp energy. This is when attacking energy, often from sharp objects, is directed at your body, draining you of your personal energy. Thus, it's best to avoid pointy and spiky plants, such as a cactus, if you want to promote positive feng shui energy.

Furthermore, a dying and neglected plant also can cultivate draining energy. So before bringing any plants into your space, make sure you have the right environment (and the time) to keep them healthy. Also, remove any browning portions of a plant promptly.

Finally, using fake plants to promote good feng shui energy can be a bit tricky. You must find high-quality fake plants to receive any benefits. They should look so realistic that you have to touch them to confirm they are fake.

### **The Best Feng Shui Plants**

In general, most plants are great for feng shui, as long as you care for them well. Plants with soft and rounded leaves are typically best, as they promote a gentle, nourishing energy.

Here are some of the best plants to include in your home when planning feng shui.

#### **Jade**

Also referred to as a money plant, the jade (*Crassula* spp.) succulent features many rounded leaves. This gives the plant a soft, lush appearance, which helps bring in the serene, calm energy that jade is known for.

### **Snake Plant**

The snake plant (*Nephrolepis exaltata*) is a great plant for beginners. Although it might appear sharp, it also has a quality of protective energy. There are many types of snake plants within the *Dracaena* genus, ranging from ones with tall and narrow leaves to some with short and wide leaves.

Soil: Sandy, well-drained, slightly acidic to slightly alkaline

Light: Bright, indirect light to low light

Water: Water when soil feels completely dry

Mature Size: Up 3 feet tall

### **Golden Pothos**

The golden pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*) is easy to care for and fun to propagate. It grows lush, trailing vines with heart-shaped leaves. It's said to bring not only positive energy but financial prosperity as well.

Soil: Moist but well-drained, neutral to slightly acidic

Light: Most light conditions are fine

Water: Water when top 2 inches of soil are dry

Mature Size: Vines can grow up to 10 feet long

### **Money Tree**

Money trees (*Pachira aquatica*) are believed to bring good fortune and wealth. Plus, the beautifully braided trunk makes the plant a lovely statement piece. While the plant is a slow grower, it is fairly easy to care for.

Soil: Moist but well-drained, acidic to neutral

Light: Bright, indirect light but will do okay in shade

Water: Water when the top 2 inches of soil are dry

Mature Size: Up to 8 feet tall

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### **Areca Palm**

The areca palm (*Dypsis lutescens*) can grow larger than many other houseplants, and it has lovely, fan-like leaves. It needs bright, indirect light to thrive. If you want to fend off bad energy and usher in the good, this is the plant to invite into your home.

Soil: Moist but well-drained, acidic, neutral

Light: Full to partial sun

Water: Water when soil dries out

Mature Size: Up to 7 feet tall

## 5. Bedding Trends to Try This Year That Are Absolutely Dreamy



Interior designers weigh in on the bedding materials, colors, and textures to refresh your room with this year.

From relaxed linens to bold patterns and prints, 2025's best bedding trends are giving new meaning to cozy, with themes around sustainability, ease, and overall comfort. Just remember, your bedroom should be a sanctuary, so don't forsake your coziness or style when refreshing your space.

### 1. Color Drenching

One movement having its moment across the design industry is color drenching. Galey Alix, interior designer and founder of Galey Alix Design, says she sees this trend taking shape in bedding, too, with linens, decorative pillows, and duvets all taking a monochromatic point of view with a bedroom's wall and ceiling colors. While it can make for easy sourcing when it comes to product selection, Alix warns to watch out for a room that feels lackluster or bland if you don't strike the right balance.

### 2. Flowing Linens

"Instead of a traditional bed skirt, many people are opting for a coverlet that gracefully flows and hangs over the edge of the bed, creating a similar aesthetic," says Drew Michael Scott, interior design content creator and founder of Lone Fox Home. "This style gives the bed a clean, elegant look while offering a sense of softness and flow."

Alix has similarly noticed a more relaxed look for bedding as of late, with untucked sides and duvets that drape over the bed in an organic way. "They seem to be going for a more relaxed and approachable

look, which is great if you want to save a little time making a pristine bed every morning in 2025,” she explains.

### **3. Tucking Pillows Under Bedding**

If the organic look isn’t for you, there’s hope yet. “I’ve been loving a more structured, neat look by tucking pillows under the blanket or duvet,” says Scott. “This trend creates a hotel-inspired look, where the pillows are neatly in place, contributing to a clean, cozy aesthetic.

Alix notes she’s seen a return to laying pillows flat as opposed to propping them upright—whether under or on top of bedding. Depending on how you employ the look, it can lend the clean look Scott currently favors or the more free-flowing look that’s also gaining traction.

### **4. End-of-Bed Accents**

For a more layered look than a duvet and comforter can achieve, casually drape or neatly tuck in a duvet at the end of the bed. This allows for better temperature control with a layer that can easily be added or removed as needed. “This small detail brings a touch of warmth and texture while elevating the overall look of the room,” says Scott.

### **5. No Top Sheet**

Much debate has been posed over whether or not it’s okay to sleep without a flat top sheet. Sabrina Dylag, lead designer at Charleston-based design firm MDI Luxury Design, thinks 2025 might be the year that the debate finally skews in the less-is-more camp. “This trend eliminates the hassle of tucking in sheets and creates a more relaxed, laidback look for the bed,” she says. “It’s also easier to manage when it comes to washing, as fewer pieces need to be laundered.”

### **6. Bold Patterns and Prints**

Though Dylag admits minimalist designs are still popular, graphic patterns like abstract designs, modern geometric patterns, and botanical-inspired motifs are making a comeback in some bedrooms. “These patterns can add a touch of personality and excitement to the space while maintaining a sophisticated feel,” she says

Alix also notes a resurgence of color and vintage-inspired designs, with the heavy wallpaper and bedding patterns of the 1970s and '80s seeing a return to splendor. “I won’t be surprised if I see patterned bedding with rich jewel tones start to make a comeback in 2025 based on the vintage inspiration I’m seeing evolve in other home furnishings,” she says.

### **7. Sustainable Materials**

Fabrics like organic cotton, linen, and bamboo are increasingly gaining popularity as eco-conscious buyers look to outfit their beds in materials that are not only better for the environment but also more comfortable and breathable too, says Dylag.

“I feel that post-pandemic, people have a heightened sense of health awareness and they are seeking out organic, chemical-free products more than ever,” Alix explains. “The great news is it’s kind of a double win when it comes to bedding because organic sheets are often softer and feel better over time despite multiple washes.”

The long fibers, single-ply weaves, and high thread counts that typically come along with organic sheets can add to the softer feel, she says. “So in 2025, I think people will be sleeping sounder and healthier.”

## 8. Layering Textures

Alix says one of the keys to creating a cozy, relaxed feel in any space is to layer textures. This is especially true when it comes to bedrooms where comfort is key. “Bedding is the perfect opportunity for this because you already have a fitted bed sheet, a top sheet and either a duvet or comforter,” she says. “Why not add in a waffle blanket under your duvet for another textured layer and have a folded bed blanket casually nesting across the top of your duvet.”

# 6. Ways to Add Character and Charm to a New House



Because that brand-new look isn't always what you want.

Moving into a new home or a freshly renovated space can be a thrill, but there's such a thing as a new home looking too new. The clean, modern look is well and good, but it can feel cold if there's not some sense of life in a space. Now, we're not going to suggest you rip out your brand-new floors to replace them with reclaimed barn wood, but with a little bit of effort, you can make even the newest home look like it has a bit of charming history.

So, we asked design pros to share DIY ideas and mini upgrades that homeowners or renters could make to give their home more of a lived-in look. Read on for tips on how to get that cozy, inviting vibe.

## Say Yes to Secondhand

Adding antique furnishings and accessories to your home is the fastest, easiest way to add a lived-in aesthetic to your home, says Deb Foglia, the blogger behind Seeking Lavender Lane and the founder of Vintage Keepers. “Ninety percent of the stuff in my house is vintage,” says Foglia. “Pieces that have charm and were once loved by someone else instantly transition the feel of your home.”

## **Embrace Reclaimed Accents**

If you already have newer furnishings, Whitney Leigh Morris, the creator of the Tiny Canal Cottage and author of *Small Space Style*, suggests adding a dash of reclaimed materials around your house to up the charm factor. “Vintage hinges, door knobs, and pulls can work wonders,” she says. Similarly, you can top a console, countertop or dresser with a surface of repurposed materials, like reclaimed wood or natural stone, which you can have sized to your specifications.

## **Mix and Match**

Both Morris and Foglia note that matchy-matchy furnishings and finishes are often hallmarks of a new space. If possible, mix up your new furniture with older pieces and shop from a variety of brands, not just one retailer. “The sofa and armchair can indeed contrast,” says Morris. “This approach echoes a time when newly-manufactured goods weren’t so prevalent, and unique, mismatched, and homemade goods decorated well-loved rooms.”

## **Layer on Old World Wall Finishes**

Morris has spent the last year building a new house, but the brand new structure looks anything but sterile thanks to the textured appearance of her walls. “Old homes develop beautiful, rich patinas of all sorts over time,” says Morris. “A way to attain a similar feeling is through the application of layered lime paint and *Tadelakt*, [a plaster topcoat]. The origins of these concoctions date back centuries, so they inherently offer an Old World, texture-rich look when applied to walls and ceilings.”

## **Tack Up Some Trim**

Another tactic to enliven drywall is to add molding and trim. Foglia added picture frame molding in several rooms of her home and says it's a project you can do yourself if you have basic DIY skills, a miter saw, and (ideally) a nail gun. “Any wainscoting, shiplap or molding gives a room dimension, and instantly looks older,” says Foglia.

## **Mind Your Metals**

Pay attention to the finishes on hardware, door knobs, and light fixtures, say designers Erin Wheeler and Amy Burgess. “I really love brass, especially antique brass, which makes a room feel a little more lived-in, like it has a story,” Wheeler says. She notes that while it’s a small detail, the patina and warmth of the metal can change the look of the whole room. And don’t worry about matching all your metals: A variety of finishes will make a room look collected over time.

## **Swap Out Your Bathroom Sink**

If you want to add more character to your bathroom without ripping everything out and starting from scratch, Foglia says look to the sink. In her own home, Foglia used a reclaimed hammam bowl as a sink. “A vintage vessel sink is usually affordable and instantly gives space more character than a traditional one,” she says. Another option? Place a sink on top of a vintage dresser or cabinet instead of an off-the-shelf vanity—all you need to do is drill a few holes for plumbing.

## **Utilize Table Lamps**

Your home may be blessed with state-of-the-art lighting, but there’s nothing like accent lamps to create a cozy atmosphere. And, the design pros we spoke to say the more the merrier. Foglia notes that lamps are especially impactful in the kitchen, where they add unexpected living room styling.

## **Install a Truly Personal Gallery Wall**

Nothing says “collected over time” like a gallery wall. Wheeler says that it doesn't even matter if you actually bought your artwork online instead of in a number of antique stores over the years. A gallery wall can quickly evoke the feeling of a well-loved home, especially if you weave in personal mementos and photographs. Mixed into Wheeler's own wall assemblage are a handkerchief that her business partner Burgess brought back from a trip and a photo of her grandfather from the 1940s.

## 7. Conclusion

Designing your new home in Adelaide is a rewarding experience that allows you to create a space tailored to your lifestyle and preferences. By focusing on smart layouts, sustainable materials, and energy-efficient features, you can build a home that is both stylish and functional. Incorporating outdoor living spaces enhances comfort, making the most of Adelaide's beautiful climate. Whether you choose a contemporary or traditional design, working with local experts ensures a seamless process. With thoughtful planning and attention to detail, your dream home in Adelaide will not only reflect your personality but also provide lasting comfort and value.

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